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SUPPLEMENTARY NOTICES OF THE PLANTS AND MINERALS
OF THE ISLANDS OF ARRAN.

[See *Antiquities*, p. 79.]

*Rare Plants observed in the largest Island of Arran, in October 1805. By James
Townsend Mackay.*

CORNUS sanguinea, Common Dogwood.

Cistus Helianthemum, Dwarf Rock Rose, or Sun Rose. The only place in Ireland where it has been found.

Lavatera arborea, Tree Mallow.

Humulus Lupulus, Common Hop.

This I was told had been introduced many years back. The plants I saw were most luxuriant, and extended their shoots to a great length, over the lime-stone rock, near to which they grew, and produced excellent Hops.

May not the plant Mr. O'Flaherty mentions, as having been used by the natives for dying blue, be the Isatis tinctoria or Dyer's Woad, which may have also been introduced and cultivated for use? I did not however observe it in the largest Island, which was the only one I visited.

The Woad is much used by the dyers in England for its blue colour, and it is the basis of many other colours. It is cultivated there for use; but is, even in England, rather rare in the wild state.

Rhodiola rosea, Rose-Root. The root in the wild state, when bruised, has the fragrance of a rose.

Polypodium vulgare. A beautiful variety of this fern is plentiful in Arran. It is readily distinguished from the common variety by having its fronds mostly bipinnatifid. The same variety grows in the Dargle.

Adiantum Capillus-Veneris. True Maiden-hair. This rare and most elegant fern, I found growing in the greatest profusion in the crevices of the lime-stone rock, of which the greater part of the surface of the island is composed. It is the only place in Britain or Ireland where it has been found of late.

Mineralogy of the Islands of Arran, as collected from a few specimens in the Museum of the Royal Dublin Society.

THE Islands of Arran consist mostly of grey and greyish-black Lime-stone of different descriptions: it is partly compact, partly granular. The compact contains some petrifications, particularly Chamites, Cochlites, and Anomites. Some part of this Lime-stone is of a slaty texture. In some large blocks along the shore, which have the appearance of reddish-grey conglomerates, there are imbedded small imperfect Madreporites. Some parts of the greyish-black Lime-stone is bituminous, and emits a strong hepatic smell, when struck with a hammer. This kind is sometimes decomposed on its surface, and passes into calcareous Marl-slate. It contains, but rarely, common pyrites, partly in grains, partly in cubes. Some of these compact Lime-stones, particularly those of greyish-black colour take, a very fine polish.

Fine granular Green-stone is also found in very large masses, generally iron-shot on its surface, and decomposed: it forms a yellowish-brown Iron-ochre.

Nodules and Boulders of common Iron-pyrites, of a pale brass-yellow colour, are found imbedded in compact greyish-black Lime-stone, and loose.

Meadow Iron-ore, of a yellowish-brown and ochre-yellow colour, is found in loose pieces.

Blue Iron-earth, or blue Phosphate of Iron of pulverulent particles, occurs in Turf-land, but rarely.